

CITY of TORRANCE

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012



Upcoming Centennial Events

Torrance Day with LA Galaxy

August 26, 2012, 4 p.m. Home Depot Center. Join the LA Galaxy as they play against the FC Dallas!

Western Museum of Flight Open House

September 12, 2012, Western Museum of Flight, more information TBA on Centennial website.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/>

Centennial Celebration Music Concert

September 9, 2012, First United Methodist Church, more information TBA on Centennial website.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/>

Torrance Employee Variety Show- Then and Now: The Centennial Edition

September 15, 2012, James Armstrong Theatre. It will be an evening of entertainment and prizes put on by employees of the City of Torrance at the Armstrong Theatre to raise funds for the Torrance Relay for Life. There will also be skits and filler between acts that reflect Torrance history.

Time Capsule Dedication- El Prado/ Hometown Parade

September 16, 2012, more information TBA on Centennial website.

Torrance, Who Do You Think You Are?

September 19, 2012, more information TBA on Centennial website.

Moonlight Magic on Madrona Marsh

September 29, 2012, Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center. Visit Madrona Marsh Nature Center to

purchase your tickets for this year's Moonlight Magic Fundraising Event: A Fundraising Celebration on the Preserve in the Moonlight. Dinner, music, auctions, dancing, and laughter. Tickets are \$50.

Centennial Sponsor Reception,

October 19, 2012, more information TBA on Centennial website.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/>

Torrance High Classic & Custom Car Show

October 13, 2012, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Torrance High School. Take part in Torrance High's 8th annual Classic and Custom Car Show.

Torrance Historical Society Home Tour

October 13& 14, more information TBA on Centennial website.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/>

Art in the Park

October 13 & 14, more information TBA on Centennial website.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/>

California Living Historic Timeline Performance

October 28, 2012, Wilson Park. Many cities have participated in the Historic Timeline performance, come watch as West High delivers their rendition.

Torrance Birthday Bash

October 28, 2012.

The Centennial Celebration Culmination! Come Celebrate the City of Torrance's 100th Birthday.



*Ko taku rourou
Ko tau rou rou
Ka ora te tangata*

*With my resources
And your resources
Everyone will benefit*

~Maori Proverb

Where's Jared?



It's not every year that we get to celebrate a centennial!

This is why the Torrance Centennial Committee has come up with various events and contests honoring the city's 100th Birthday! One of the most

interesting is the "Where's Jared?" contest, in which a picture is posted on the centennial website and citizens are encouraged to guess where the picture of Jared Sidney Torrance was taken. Each Monday at 9:00 a.m., a new photo is posted. Guesses are accepted until Sunday at 5:00 p.m. and should be sent to Centennial@TorranceCA.Gov. Winners are notified the following Monday no later than noon. To participate in the contest or see the weeks previous pictures and winners, visit the "Where's Jared" page on the Torrance Centennial website. The Contest ends October 22, 2012.

<http://www.torrancecentennial.org/events/wheres-jared>



Volunteer Spotlights

Written by Ada Recinos, Summer Inter 2012 and
Megan Chan, Volunteer Personnel Technician

*"You must work - we must all work to make the world worthy of its children."
-- Pablo Casals*

James R. Armstrong Theatre

The James R. Armstrong Theatre has many volunteer opportunities available to the public and to student's ages 14 years and older.

Containing a total of 502 seats, the Theater is divided between general admission and reserved seating. Doors open 30 minutes before the show for theatre attendees, but volunteers are scheduled to arrive an hour before the show. For each show there are six to eight volunteers, depending on the size of the event, and the house manager assigns the volunteers their duties for the evening. Volunteer duties can include distributing programs, ushering people to their seats, and selling and collecting ticket stubs at events.

Each volunteer is scheduled to help about two times per month. Volunteers receive calendars of all the upcoming events and Anita Moisen, the James R. Armstrong Theatre Booking Manager, allows them to reserve a certain show for their volunteer service via email or sign-up book.

The Theatre uses approximately 200 volunteers annually, and Anita has shared information about three of the Theatre's exemplary volunteers:

Olga Sotori

Sotori loves to be around people. She has volunteered for the Theatre for 18 years, and finds volunteering very important and satisfying. "It gives [me] purpose, excitement, and an excuse to leave the house." Sotori enjoys the community feel the Theatre offers guests and volunteers and especially likes it when people call her by name (volunteers receive a name badge for the evening).

Bettie Di Meo

Meo has volunteered for the Theatre for three years and discovered the volunteer opportunity through the Daily Breeze. She's had several volunteer experiences, but enjoys this role by far due to its flexible nature and friendly environment. Meo's background is in hospitality and customer service so she finds this type of volunteer service very important and relevant to her experience.

Yumie Yamagiwa

Yamagiwa learned about the volunteer opportunity at the Theatre through her older sister, Yukie, who has also enjoyed a great volunteer experience at the Theatre. Yamagiwa really enjoys the weekly shows and especially loves the talent and dancing shows hosted by the Theatre.

All three volunteers love Moisen, stating that her humor and personable demeanor keeps them coming back. They also said that the sponsors are all very nice, emphasizing that it's very fun to volunteer at the Theatre and that the biggest perk is getting to meet and greet all types of people.

If you would like to join these ladies and have some fun volunteering at the James R. Armstrong Theater, find out how to apply at <http://www.torranceca.gov/volunteerprogram.htm>



From left to right: Yumie, Olga, Bettie



Volunteer Spotlight

Written Jennifer Hagihara,
edited by Ada Recinos – Summer Intern 2012

*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."
~Muhammad Ali*

Torrance Fire Department

After volunteering at a few places in Long Beach, Olivia Lopez, a retired City of Torrance employee, decided to volunteer with the Torrance Fire Department after hearing about their volunteering opportunities through a friend. Living only a block away from the department, volunteering gave Lopez the chance to get out of her house and be productive after working as a Senior Management Associate for Torrance for 20 years.

Volunteering two times a week in two to four hour increments, the work Lopez engages in is very detailed oriented and involves HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability) training, which teaches people about patient confidentiality.

Lopez processes the Paramedic Reports (EMS reports), which are typically a four-paged report every patient receives when the paramedics takes a person away. The report is filled out on a weekly basis by nurses, then given back to the dispatchers to process. But when the workload became overbearing, the dispatchers handed them off to a secretary. Then it went to Lopez.

"The nurses at the different hospitals run the [EMS] reports and give them to me," Lopez explained. "First I put them in chronological order, then double check numbers on the reports relating to auditing. On average I may receive about 100 or so EMS reports (usually more) in a week."

"Lopez is our first volunteer for the Fire Department who wasn't seeking a firefighting career," Fire Chief Martin Serna for the Torrance Fire Department, said. "She's been here since February of 2009 and has been a great asset for us."

"I enjoy the people at the Fire Department," Lopez said, "The experience is very nice. I love the camaraderie and the ability to help." "She's a really great asset for the department, and a great person to work with," Serna replied when asked what he thought of Lopez. "She's very reliable, has a great attitude, and sets the standards for our volunteers."



Olivia Lopez

Do you have administrative skills that you would like to contribute?

Currently, the Fire department is doing fine with the number of volunteers they have. But on occasion, city departments have openings for administrative volunteers.

"Departments are challenged to find innovative ways to get additional work done with less staff. Administrative volunteers can help fill the gaps while learning how about how the various city departments function," said Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Lohnes.

Upcoming administrative opportunities are anticipated supporting the City's SMART team (Special Multi-Agency Response Team), which helps residents tackle a variety of issues from mitigating health and safety hazards to simple repairs. For more information on volunteer opportunities, see the Volunteer webpage at <http://www.torranceca.gov/VolunteerProgram.htm>, or contact Laura Lohnes at 310-618-2967.



About your City: The State experiences cuts to their budget, what does that mean for the City of Torrance?

Written by Ada Recinos, Summer Intern 2012

The City is greatly impacted by the State's Budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year. The State diverted \$130 million total in local Vehicle License Fees (VLF) from every city to fund State public safety grant programs, directly decreasing Torrance's VLF revenue by \$530,000. The City was also affected by the State's adoption of AB109, known as Criminal Justice Realignment, which transfers "low-risk" inmates from State prisons to county jail, ultimately making them a local financial burden. The City is trying to adjust by proposing the addition of two police officers to contact and monitor parolees and probationers, since released inmates will be brought back to communities without supervision. The State legislature has also eliminated redevelopment agencies throughout California, which limits the City's ability to fund affordable housing and stimulate growth in "Old Torrance," and the eastside industrial area of the City.

These changes are definitely something that the City did not need after such a threatening recession; however, it seems as though the light at the end of the tunnel might be closer than we thought. The City is seeing a recovery of Sales Tax Revenues, which have grown by 5%, and Transient Occupancy Taxes have also increased by 10% over last year.

Another positive trend is the City's ability to adopt strategies to maintain a balanced budget. Examples of these strategies include:

- **Restructuring the working hours of library personnel, \$115,000 in savings.**
- **Reorganization of the Human Resources Department, \$115,000 in savings.**
- **Reduction in Park Services overtime, \$50,000 in savings.**
- **Funding of four Capital Projects to increase energy efficiencies, \$395,000 in savings when projects are completed.**

The City will reduce energy costs from the following capital projects: Lighting Upgrades, Water Conservation/Irrigation Controls Upgrade, Renewable Energy/Pool Solar Water Heating and HVAC replacements. The expected savings goal is \$395,000 total once the projects are completed.

The City continues to explore federal grants and local sales tax return revenues to fund innovation for the future while preserving general fund revenues for city operations. For example, by utilizing Measure R sales tax funds; the Public Works Department will add three positions to expand infrastructure projects. Also, utilizing federal grant funds, ten positions in will be added to the Transit Department to implement the Torrance Rapid Bus program and ExpressLane demonstration project. In addition the Cable Program will receive funding for their operations equipment by the Cable capital fund (PEG Fund), which will free up to \$60,000 in the General Fund, which can then be used for the Police Department's community outreach programs.

The City of Torrance also has a future considerations plan for the 2013-15 budget which includes: staffing for the maintenance of potential sport fields (\$90,000); a strategic plan three-year cycle (\$135,000); resources for outreach to a second sister city (\$42,200); and possible funding for the 2014 Rose Float.

For more information about the City's budget, go to <http://www.torranceca.gov/109.htm> and click on "Financial Reports."

Counting down to the Big Event – the Centennial Birthday Bash!

Edited by Ada Recinos, Summer Intern 2012



As the City of Torrance turns 100 years old, many different events have been organized and planned in order to celebrate this special occasion. That's where the Torrance Centennial Committee comes in! They have been diligently and enthusiastically running the various events leading up to the grand birthday bash. The committee has used volunteers to support many of these exciting events. Volunteers have done everything from gathering 100 facts about Torrance to helping with the Centennial Poster Contest. The Centennial Committee recruited volunteers to help in three main areas: administrative, marketing and event support. Without the volunteers and the positions they fill, many of the events would not be possible! All the events so far have been wonderful and there are many more to come. We are lucky to have such a strong community with citizens who make a big difference. The Torrance Volunteer Program appreciates all of the contributions the Centennial Committee and its volunteers have made. Here's to another 100 wonderful years!

If you would like to volunteer in support of the Centennial, go to <http://www.torrancecentennial.org/> and click on "Get Involved"

City of Torrance Fun Facts

Motto: A Balanced City/The City with a Hometown Feel

Nickname: T Town

Rank: Torrance is the sixth largest city in Los Angeles, 33rd largest in California

Founded: October 24, 1912

Incorporated: May 12, 1921

Founder: Jared Sydney Torrance

Every newsletter will now contain an on-going new trivia section about the newsletter's highlighted topic(s). The first five readers who email the volunteer program at VolunteerProgram@TorranceCA.Gov with the correct answers to all of the questions will receive a prize! Answers to all the trivia questions will be printed in the following newsletter.

Torrance Trivia

1. **A major problem of early Torrance was** (a) dust storms; (b) locusts; (c) toxic smoke and wastes; (d) flooding.
2. **Torrance school graduates have become** (a) noted entertainment personalities; (b) assistant Secretaries of Defense; (c) a president of MGM Studios; (d) school superintendents; (e) athletic coaches; (f) all of the above.
3. **Del Amo Shopping was named for** (a) a Spanish land grantee; (b) a relative of the grantee; (c) a famous general; (d) an early mission friar; (e) love, Spanish meaning of "amo".
4. **A major Torrance scandal in 1971 was a plot to** (a) blow up City Hall; (b) kill the school superintendent; (c) shoot down the Goodyear Blimp; (d) set off a bomb at a football game
5. **At one time, which of the following was seriously considered for Torrance?** (a) a major harbor; (b) the state capitol; (c) Knott's Berry Farm; (d) what became UCLA
6. **Torrance's founder was** (a) an early missionary; (b) a rancher; (c) an industrialist; (d) a land grant heir